BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM

★

REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending

31st December, 1949

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Morecambe and Heysham.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Morecambe and Heysham.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the public health services of the borough during 1949.

The form of the report and the matters dealt with are in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health.

The most prominent feature in the health record of the borough during the year is the number of cases of poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis. As in 1947, this infection rose to disturbing heights throughout the country; but whereas in 1947 Morecambe and Heysham escaped relatively lightly, with 7 cases and no deaths, in 1949 we had 32 cases and 6 deaths. At the very beginning of the wave of cases in this borough were 3 cases among a group of Scouts who had been in camp together: of these 3, one, the Scoutmaster, died after a few days illness. This tragic and dramatic occurrence caused a great deal of distress among the remaining boys, but no other confirmed case occurred in that group at that time, and the subsequent cases in the borough do not appear to have had any connection with the camp outbreak.

During the second half of the year, while cases of poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis were occurring, dental extractions not urgently necessary, and operations on the nose and throat, were suspended. Such caution appears to be reasonable in the light of our present, very incomplete, knowledge of the method by which the polio virus is transmitted; but if, as seems possible, the disease is to become endemic, with outbreaks occurring at intervals of a year or two and lasting for perhaps six months, then it may become difficult to decide whether the precautionary suspension of dental and E.N.T. work ought to be repeatedly asked for.

The main infectious diseases, other than poliomyelitis, occurring during the year were measles and whooping cough. There has not now since 1946 been a case of diphtheria in the borough.

As in the past 3 years I append to my report a short account of the work of the School Medical Service. The borough has a healthy juvenile population and the standard of parental care, as shewn in the nutrition, cleanliness and clothing of the children, is high. It is not possible yet to discover any part of the service to children that has benefitted by the transfer from Borough Council of responsibility for the School Medical Service.

The work of bringing to as high a standard as possible the premises in which food is manufactured or prepared for sale continued throughout the year. Such work is still hampered and complicated by various controls and restrictions but, in spite of these, a great deal has been achieved in the past three years. Since 1947 major structural alterations and reconstruction under plans approved have been completed at 69 premises and, in addition to this, much minor repair work and much re-equipment have been secured. In all these premises the work has been carried out in accordance with the advice of the Health Department and under the supervision of a Sanitary Inspector: the results have been very satisfactory.

In all the work of the department the support and appreciation of the Health Committee and of the Council have been an encouragement for which I thank them. I owe my thanks, also, to the staff of the department for their conscientious work and their willing help, and to my fellow officials of other departments for their ready assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. LYLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in acres (not including foreshore)	3,665
Population at 1931 Census	24,542
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1949	36,710
Number of inhabited houses Census, 1931	5,749
Number of inhabited houses, 1949 (according to rate books)	11,092
Rateable value	£312,156
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,290

There has been no change in the social conditions of the borough, which is primarily a health and holiday resort and a pleasant residential town.

Such industries as we have are inoffensive and the main industrial area, designed for light industries, is on the outskirts of the borough.

The chief sources of employment are those concerned with catering for and entertaining visitors, and the town has achieved, and maintains, a high place in the affections of holiday makers all over the North of England and from Scotland.

Full employment, good wages and holidays with pay in industry mean prosperity for a holiday resort whose people are alive to the necessity of earning afresh each year a reputation for hospitality and up-to-date entertainment. The assistance that the Council of the Borough can give to private enterprise in achieving this is great, and though the Health Committee plays ,of course, no part in the provision of entertainments, it is very conscious of its duty to justify the Borough's claim to the second half of its motto.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births—	Male	Female
Legitimate	236	200
Illegitimate	16	13
Total	252	213

Still Births—	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	6
Total	4	6

Deaths

Total Male Deaths	302
Total Female Deaths	335
Total (Male and Female)	637

Infant Deaths (under one year of age)	Male	Female
Legitimate	7	7
Illegitimate	1	1
Total	8	8

Puerperal Deaths

Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	—
Other maternal causes	—
Total Maternal Mortality	—

Deaths From Cancer

Cancer of	Male	Female
Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus, Uterus	5	4
Stomach and Duodenum	8	8
Breast	1	16
All Other Sites	29	24
Total	43	52

Deaths from Infective Diseases

	Male	Female
Influenza	6	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	12	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	2	1
Measles	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Polio-encephalitis	5	1

There were no deaths from diarrhoea of children under two years of age and no deaths from whooping cough.

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birthrate	Crude Deathrate	Deathrate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Deathrate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total (live & still) Births	Rate of Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births
Estimated Population : 36,710							
Mean of 5 yrs. 1944-1948	13.2	15.8	0.44	2.35	2.06	2.02	47
Year :—							
1948	12.0	14.2	0.54	2.36	2.26	2.22	56
1949	12.7	*17.4	0.38	2.59	nil	nil	34
Increase or Decrease in 1949							
On 5 years average 1944 - 1948	—0.5	+1.6	—0.06	+0.24	—2.06	—2.02	—13
On previous year ..	+0.7	+3.2	—0.16	+0.23	—2.26	—2.22	—22

The Still Birthrate for 1949 was 21 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

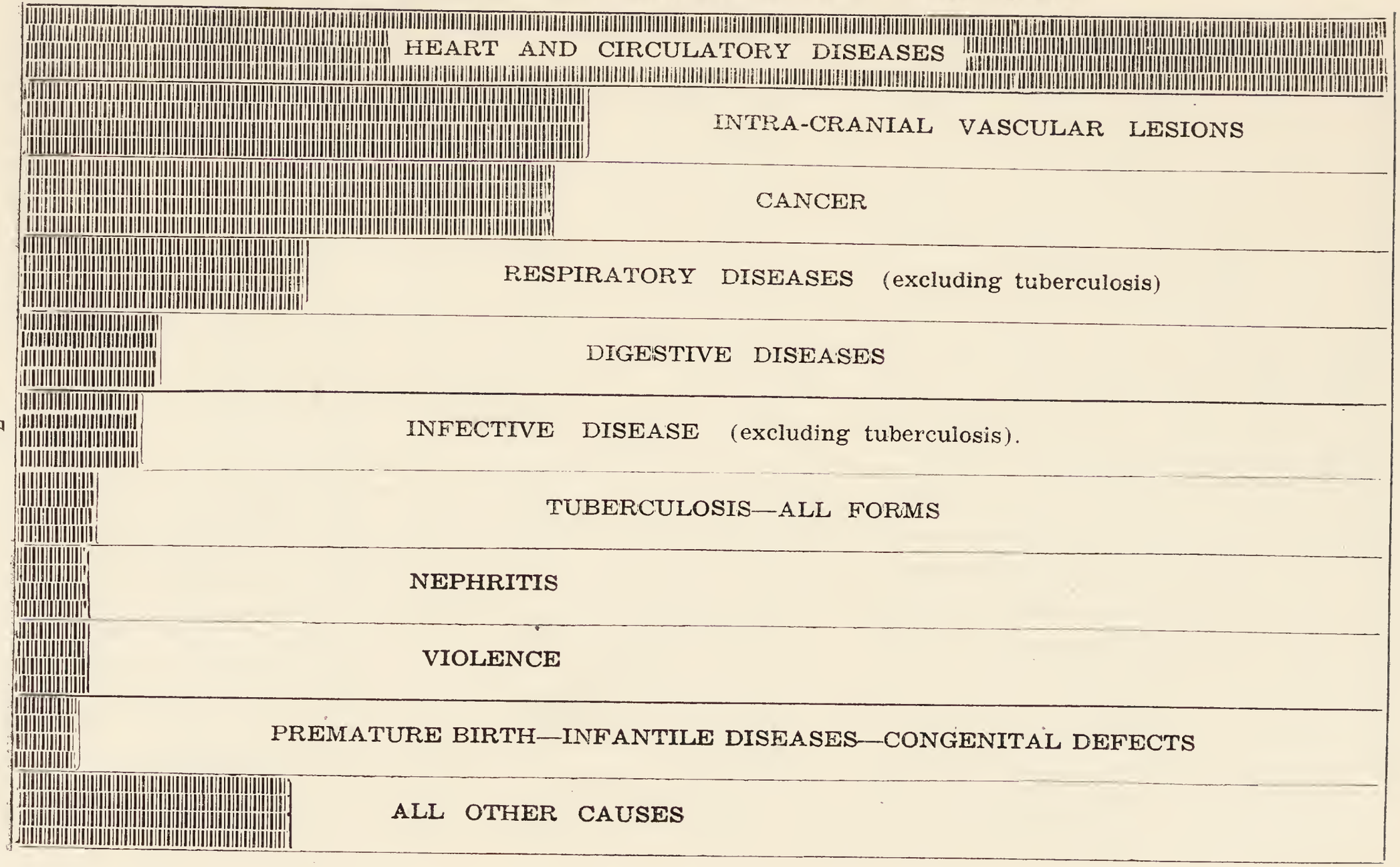
The Deathrate of legitimate infants under one year of age was 32 per 1,000 legitimate live births, while the rate for illegitimate infants was 69 per 1,000 illegitimate live births, giving a deathrate of 34 for all infants per 1,000 live births.

*1949 adjusted Deathrate (comparability factor, 0.74) = 12.8 per 1,000.

Table of Deaths from All Causes

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respir. System	12	2	14
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	2	1	3
9.	Influenza	6	6	12
10.	Measles	1	—	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	5	1	6
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. and Uterus	5	4	9
14.	Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	8	8	16
15.	Cancer of Breast	1	16	17
16.	Cancer of all Other Sites	29	24	53
17.	Diabetes	5	2	7
18.	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	37	62	99
19.	Heart Diseases	97	127	224
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	17	5	22
21.	Bronchitis	20	14	34
22.	Pneumonia	4	6	10
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	4	2	6
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	7	2	9
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	—	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	6	10	16
28.	Nephritis	5	8	13
29.	Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	3	1	4
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	3	4	7
33.	Suicide	1	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	4	2	6
35.	Other Violent Causes	3	3	6
36.	All Other Causes	17	24	41

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1949 COMPARED



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory and Hospital Facilities

Laboratory investigations are carried out by Dr. Rickards and his staff at the Pathology Laboratory in the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. We have found this a great convenience in contrast to the previous scheme under which we used the Pathology Department of Preston Royal Infirmary. I should like to thank Dr. Rickards for his constant help and advice.

Samples taken in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are analysed by the Public Analyst, Dr. Walker of Preston, for whose assistance we are also grateful.

Ambulance Services

Although the ambulance services are now the concern of the County Council, the Borough Council is, most ridiculously, left with one occasional duty. A person injured, for example in a street accident, will be picked up by the ambulance service provided that the injury is not fatal; but if the victim should be killed, or if a drowned person is washed in to the beach, then it is the duty of the Borough Council to have the body taken away. It would be very much easier, very much more sensible, very much more economical, if the removal of such dead persons were a part of the work of the ambulance service, as it used to be when local control permitted it to be used in accordance with the public need rather than in accordance with a rigid clause in an Act of Parliament.

Fortunately the Ambulance Authority in Lancashire is pleased to help as far as they are allowed to, and although the Borough Council must provide a vehicle for picking up the dead, and maintain it, they are relieved of the necessity of providing also a staff by the willingness of the Ambulance Authority to allow a driver and attendant to take this vehicle out when it is called for.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47

No applications were made under this Act for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

With the coming into force of the Education Act, 1944, the County Council became responsible for all the publicly administered clinics serving the borough. These comprise the Maternity and Child Welfare, Ante-natal and School Clinics which are held within the borough, and the Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Clinics, which are held in Lancaster.

It has been disappointing that the new Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Euston Road could not be made ready during the year. The need for it is very great. It seems impossible that it should fail to be in use in 1950.

Unfortunately this new clinic will not complete an adequate Maternity and Child Welfare service for the borough: it will be merely the first step towards such a service. It should not be thought of as replacing the extremely poor Clinic in Parliament Street, because a clinic at the West End will still be necessary. Furthermore, neither a Clinic at Euston Road nor a Clinic at the West End will meet the needs of Heysham. The mothers and infants of Heysham have no Clinic service at all, and with the growth of the new housing estates the need for a Clinic there becomes, each year, more pressing. The true picture of the borough's Maternity and Child Welfare services is that of a town requiring at least 3 Clinics and having, in fact, none at all worth the name at present.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

There were no changes during the year in the source of supply.

Existing mains were extended to supply the new houses built during the year on the Trumacar Lane and Blackberry Hall housing estates.

The old water main in Sefton Road was replaced by a new 4ins C.I. main down each footpath.

In all, 420 yards 6ins C.I. pipes, 3,000 yards 4ins and 27 yards 3ins were laid.

The purity of the water, checked by 59 bacteriological analyses and 54 chemical analyses, was satisfactory. There was continuous chlorination of all water leaving the two filter houses.

The consumpion of water in the borough increases from year to year. The following figures give the consumption of the past four years :

Morecambe	1946	355,595,000	gallons
	1947	385,362,000	„
	1948	408,144,000	„
	1949	454,545,000	„
Increase of 1949 over 1948 ...		46,401,000	„
Heysham	1946	148,275,000	„
	1947	154,387,000	„
	1948	170,287,000	„
	1949	164,464,000	„
Decrease of 1949 over 1948 ...		5,823,000	„

Daily consumption of Morecambe and Heysham in 1949 = 1,690,934 or 46 gallons per day per head of population.

As reported in previous years the quality of the water is excellent but the supply for Heysham is inadequate. It was hoped that in 1949 this deficiency would have been relieved by the provision of additional storage capacity, but it was not possible to complete the work during the year.

Complaints have been frequent, also, of discolouration of the Heysham water. This discolouration does not make the water dangerous to drink, but it has certainly been a nuisance: it is due to the condition of the old main, which it has not been possible so far to replace.

CLEANSING OF DYKES

The nuisances caused from time to time by the very large number of slow flowing dykes in the borough present a problem for which there is no practicable complete solution. The disadvantages of poor natural drainage of the land, of its unalterable geological features, are mitigated as much as is possible without outrageous expenditure and the Borough Surveyor supplies the following comment on what was done during the year :—

" Owing to the exceptionally fine summer, dykes have been less of a problem than is usual, and advantage has been taken of the dry weather to bottom properly many of the main dykes.

All main watercourses received attention and, in addition, the main Oxcliffe dyke was properly cleaned by the Corporation's staff because of the County Council's difficulties with manpower.

Spraying of the dykes with Malariol was resorted to whenever conditions merited it and, for the first time, and at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health, Malariol was used before the appearance of the mosquitoes in an attempt to kill them in the nymph stage.''

NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Borough Surveyor has provided the following summary of the work done during the year and future expectations:—

'' Excellent progress has been made on the portion of the new scheme known as Contract No. 8 which embraces the new main pumping station at Schola Green Lane, the new subsidiary pumping station at Bare Lane and the laying of the 33in. dia. gravity main in the Bare Lane area.

At Schola Green Lane, practically the whole of the underground works are completed and a start will shortly be made on the erection of the superstructure of the Detritus and Motor House and Pump Houses 1 and 2. At Bare Lane, the underground works are approximatey half completed and it will be noticed from the report for 1948 that these works had not then yet commenced.

The Ministry of Health have recently held a small informal Inquiry into the new scheme as a whole, both those portions at present under construction and those portions yet to be commenced, and a vault work should soon be commencing on the new outfall sewer on the landward portion in Ellesmere Road, Osborne Road and the Woodhill Farm area.

Fresh efforts are being employed to get the new Westgate main sewer commenced in order to release further sites for Corporation houses.

The Government's restrictions, particularly on capital expenditure, are still as stringent as ever, but every endeavour has been, and will continue to be, made to get the remaining works started and completed as early as ever possible.''

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

No. of houses on water carriage system	11,092	
„ „ fresh water closets	11,180	
„ „ waste water closets	30	approx.
„ „ middens	5	
„ „ closets attached to middens	5	
„ „ dry ashpits (excluding middens) ...	2	
„ „ movable ashbins	11,338	

SANITARY INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Inspections

Complaints received	552
Visits re complaints and nuisances	582
Nuisances discovered	520
Nuisances abated	430
Referred to other departments	27
Informal notices served (S.93)	279
Abatement notices served	29
Visits re permits for materials	5
Miscellaneous visits	241
*Legal proceedings	1

*On the 26th August, 1949, legal proceedings were instituted against a cafe proprietor for failure to comply with the terms of an abatement notice requiring the execution of repairs to the living accommodation provided for the staff arising from severe dampness. The defendant's solicitor pointed out that his client was not in any way to blame as he was being prevented from executing the work by the refusal of the adjoining property owner to grant access for the erection of a scaffold.

He further stated that he was instructed to submit to a nuisance order being made.

The court made an order requiring the defendant to comply with the abatement notice and to commence the work within 48 hours. The nuisance order was not complied with and the work was executed by the Corporation in default.

Summary of Work Done

Drain choked	138
Drain defective	30
Sewer choked	7
Sewer (private) defective	9
Gully choked	31
Gully top badly set	5
Gully (joint) choked	2
Gully (joint) defective	4
Gully (street) choked	4
Gully (street) absence of stopper	1
Gully defective	1
Gully absence of centre grid	3
W.C. choked	5
W.C. broken	11
W.C. seat broken	2
Waste watercloset choked	1

Ventilating pipe defective	5
Flushing cistern defective	1
Cesspool overflowing	2
Inspection chamber (brickwork defective)	2
W.C. chamber roof leaking	1
R.W. pipe communicating direct with drain	1
Waste pipe choked	2
Waste pipe defective	6
Waste pipe short	5
Sink old and worn	2
Lavatory basin cracked	1
Rain water downspout broken	8
Eavesgutter absence of	2
Eavesgutter choked	3
Eavesgutter broken	2
Chimney pot absent	4
Chimney stack defective	1
Chimney flue defective	3
Roof, ridge tiles loose	1
Roof leaking	13
Skylight leaking	1
Roof bay leaking	2
Roof annexe leaking	6
Walls penetrating dampness	8
Walls rising dampness	6
Walls defective pointing	5
Walls rendering perished	3
Walls plaster perished	10
Ceiling plaster perished	6
Ceiling penetrating dampness	1
Windows perished woodwork	5
Windows no sashcords	12
Fireback defective	1
Floor wood perished	7
Floor concrete uneven	1
Rooms dirty	2
Rooms verminous	4
Water poor supply	1
Water pipe burst	3
Water in cellar	9
Water over site and under floor	3
Cellar dirty	1
Ashpit insanitary	1
Refuse accumulation	4
Manure accumulation	2
Path defective	4
Hen run insanitary	3
Wasps nests	5

Drainage

Visits	327
Re-visits	531
Drains tested	168
Informal notices served	27
Formal notices served	6

Supply of Dustbins

Visits	8
Re-visits	2
Informal notices served	35
Formal notices served	1

Stables and Piggeries

Visits	28

Camping Sites

There are four camping sites licensed by the Council under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and all four are in regular use.

The Council are of the opinion that an addition to the number of licensed sites would not be an advantage to the borough and applications for additional licences were rejected.

Most of the applications received for licences were, in fact, not requests for permission to use ground for holiday camping, but requests to allow caravans to be used for housing purposes.

Although the nuisance of unlicensed camping and of "caravan squatting" has been much reduced, the limitations of the relevant sections of the Public Health Act and the slow process of establishing the fact of contravention of the Act made adequate control impossible.

The Ministry of Health approve of the kind of holiday that camping under good conditions provides, but it is a pity that it should be thought that the bona fide camper can be protected only by allowing a wide freedom to all kinds of users of moveable dwellings.

Frequent visits were paid to the licensed sites during the season and all were being satisfactorily managed.

Visits	50
Re-visits	110

Swimming Baths

The municipally owned Super Swimming Stadium was the only one open during the year. It is a fine asset to the borough, not only as a holiday attraction, but also as a means of healthy recreation and education for the resident youth. The efficiency of the filtration and chlorination plants is assured by frequent chemical examinations of the water. In addition to the chemical estimations 4 bacteriological analyses were made and all were very satisfactory.

Disinfestation

Number of verminous houses inspected	79
Number of verminous houses re-inspected	57
Number of verminous houses disinfested	64
Wasps nests destroyed	5

Offensive Trades

There are three premises in which offensive trades are conducted: in two of these the trade is tripe dressing and in the third it is gut scraping.

All were satisfactorily conducted.

Number of visits	5

Tents, Vans and Sheds

5 inspections were made during the year. No legal action was necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Premises visited	654
Visits by operators	2757
Visits by inspectors	139
Visits to food premises (inspectors)	17
Tins of poison issued	3

The above figures are those of visits to premises which are kept under review as a matter of routine and visits in response to complaints.

Survey

In 1948 a survey of the whole borough was begun and this was completed in 1949.

The following figures, which do not include those of the immediately preceding table, give the results of this work.

	1948	1949	Total for 12 months survey
Visits	10,472	4,069	14,541
Premises visited ...	9,348	2,616	11,964
Infestations found and dealt with... ...	60	5	65.

Sewers

The approximate number of manholes not surcharged in wet weather flow is 125, and in order to qualify for the 50 per cent. grant of the Ministry of Agriculture, treatment was continued during 1949.

The manholes were treated in 2 sections :—

1st section ... ... East End
2nd section ... ... West End

Each section occupied 4 days treatment (2 days pre-bait, 1 day poison and 1 day pick up).

Average pre-bait takes	11
Average no-takes	20
Average poison takes	6

The second stage of the maintenance treatment commenced in September. 31 manholes were pre-baited for two consecutive days; where a " take " was found, poison was laid on the 3rd day.

Average pre-bait takes	8
Average no-takes	23
Average poison takes	5

HOUSING

(1) General Observations

As a great part of the housing property in the borough is of relatively modern construction the general standard of dwellings is good. The prevailing types are large boarding houses and semi-detached 3-4 bedroom houses.

In the older parts both of Morecambe and Heysham there are houses built very many years ago without adequate damp proofing and with structural defects due to age which are not now satisfactorily repairable: in these houses the commonest complaint is of dampness.

In addition to the relatively few families living in permanently unfit houses, there are families living in caravans under circumstances that are far from desirable. From year

to year this caravan life continues, and although there has been a slight reduction in the numbers during the past couple of years the problem cannot really be tackled until suitable alternative accommodation, that is to say accommodation in new Corporation houses, has been provided.

One might here notice that in spite of the fact that all Corporation tenants, whatever their circumstances, enjoy a rent subsidy, there are families for whom even the subsidised rent is a burden that they could not carry. These people must either continue to live, and bring up their children, in deplorable circumstances, or accept a Corporation house, fall into arrears and, I suppose, be evicted. Their only hope lies either in a reduction of building and administrative costs that will bring rents within their reach, or in a discriminating substitute for the present blanket subsidy. If those who do not need help were to receive none, then perhaps those who are in need might be helped without any increase in cost.

(2) Housing Needs

At the end of the year there were 1879 applicants for Council houses: of these 1430 were living in rooms.

In 1949 the Council took into consideration the needs of couples with only one child. So long as only 3 bedroom houses were being built it would have been wasteful to accept as tenants any family consisting of less than 4 persons. It had earlier been decided to build a number of flats for old people, but the Council now agreed that those at both ends of life, the infants and the grand-parents, had equal claims and half the flats were allocated to couples with one child.

For families with 4 or more children 4 bedroom houses were being built in 1949.

With need so pressing the main thing at present is to get the people into the houses most suitable for them at the moment; but, in order that new property may be most advantageously used, and overcrowding and waste avoided, it will be necessary in time to transfer tenants from one type of house to another as their families increase, or grow up and leave home. The necessity for this may not always be willingly accepted.

(3) Progress of Local Authority Schemes

During the year 108 new houses were completed and occupied: of these 32 were built by private builders under Circular 92/1946 and sold to the Corporation.

Taking altogether the new houses, requisitioned property and the hutments at Heysham, 82 families were rehoused during the year, these families comprising 334 persons.

The hutments at Heysham and Barrows Lane are a continual trouble and expense. They were unsatisfactorily built even for the purpose for which they were erected, namely, the temporary quarters of a passing (military) population, and constant repairs do not keep pace with deterioration. A number of them the Corporation refused after the military had left, but the Ministry of Health insisted that they should be taken over, whatever their shortcomings and defects. Occupation of the worst of them cannot be much longer permitted.

(4) Inspections

Housing Act, 1936

Houses inspected	125
Houses re-inspected	234
Rent books examined	17
Rent books not complying (S.4)	2
Informal notices served	2
Application for permitted number	3
Houses measured	8
Certificates issued	3

Public Health Act, 1936

Houses inspected	461
Houses re-inspected	597
Formal notices served re intent to inspect	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply:

Registered premises at 30th September, 1949:

	Total on 1..1.49	Transfers	Deletions	Additions	Total on 30.9.49
Retail purveyors	95	3	4	5	96
Dairies ...	55	2	8		47
Farms ...	14				14
Wholesale traders .	33			1	34

Designated milks at 30th September, 1949:

Licences granted by the County Council:

Producing and bottling Accredited Milk ...	2

Licences granted by Council:

Pasteurisers (H.T.S.T.)	1
Dealer bottling (T.T.)	1
Dealers bottling (Accred)	1
Dealers (T.T.)	25
Dealers (Pasteurised)	8
Dealers (Accred.)	1
Supplementary (T.T.)	6
Supplementary (Pasteurised)	1

Visits and Inspections:

Retail purveyors	179
Distributors	124
Dairies	104
Processing plant	59
Farms	6
Wholesale traders	11
Milk stores	15
Bottling establishments	14
Milk Bars	2
Sampling	125
Complaints received	2
Circulars issued regarding 1949 Regulations	192
Circulars issued regarding 1949 Designated Regulations	64

Bacteriological Tests

234 samples of milk were taken involving some 657 examinations: these were carried out at the Public Health Laboratory supervised by Dr. A. G. Rickards.

55 samples were of raw farm milk, 1 heat treated and the remaining 178 designated milks. 19 of the 39 samples of raw farm milk arriving at the local processing plant were of unsatisfactory keeping quality but of the 101 samples taken after pasteurisation at the same plant, one only was unsatisfactory. The quality of the milk arriving at the plant remains similar to that of last year, approximately 50 per cent. being satisfactory. The greater part is delivered from farms outside the borough and unsatisfactory samples are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Food. 58 samples were examined for the presence of Tubercle bacillus and all were reported as free.

12 samples or 5.4 per cent. showed the presence of B.Coli as compared with 3.1 per cent. last year and 15 per cent. in 1947.

A summary of the samples taken is shown in the table overleaf.

TYPE	No. of Samples	B. Coli in 0.01 c.c.			Methylene Blue Test (Keeping Quality)			Phosphatase Test (Heat Treatment)			Tubercle Bacilli		
		—	+	% Satis-factory	Pass	Fail	% Satis-factory	Pass	Fail	% Satis-factory	Absent	Present	Turbid. Satis-factory
Tuberculin Tested	39	37	2	94.8	27	12	69.2				11	—	
Accredited	5	4	1	80.0	1	4	20.0				5	—	
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	54	47		100.0	46	1	97.9	52	1	98.1	6	—	
Pasteurised	75	75		100.0	75		100.0	73	2	97.1	9	—	
Sterilised	5	5		100.0	5		100.0	5		100.0	1	—	1
Heat Treated	1	1		100.0	1		100.0	1		100.0			
Raw Farm	55	46	9	83.6	28	27	50.9				26	—	1
Total	234	215	12	94.6	183	54	77.2	131	3	97.7	58	—	

Administration:

Milk and Dairies

The following legislation came into operation on the 1st October and many major changes have been introduced.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.
Food and Drugs (Transfer of Functions) Order, 1948.
Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949.
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.

This Act is concerned with amendments to the principal Act, i.e. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and deals with the transfer of responsibility for the registration of, and enforcement of regulations relating to, dairy farms and dairy farmers from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This means that, so far as these premises and persons are concerned, the local authority has ceased to have any control.

Food and Drugs (Transfer of Functions) Order, 1948.

This relates to the transfer of various functions at ministerial level affecting the Ministers of Health and of Agriculture and Fisheries and introduces the Minister of Food into the various regulations affecting milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949.

The provisions of this Act are new to this country and carry into effect the recommendations of the various select committees which have considered the problem for many years. During the war emergency legislation gave similar powers, but no action was taken.

The Minister of Food may at any time, after consultation with representatives of any interests concerned, order that this Act shall come into operation in any area, and the area will then become known as "a specified area."

It will be obligatory upon all persons selling milk in a " specified area " to use a special designation, and the permitted designations are:

Tuberculin Tested

Accredited (This milk will cease to be sold on the 1st October, 1954)
Pasteurised
Sterilised
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Sterilised)

Enforcement will be by Food and Drugs authorities.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The execution and enforcement of regulations on dairy farms (except diseases communicable to man) are now the responsibility of the Ministry. Local authorities have retained the responsibility for provisions which apply outside farms, for the provisions relating to diseases communicable to man and for the registration of dairies and dairymen not being farms or dairy farmers. There are changes in the regulations relating to buildings, cleansing of vessels, distribution etc. and provision is made for modern practices, including refrigeration, and the use of approved chemical agents for cleansing.

The terms " retail purveyor " and " wholesale trader " have ceased to exist and the term " distributor " is used. No provision is made for the continuance of existing registrations and all persons carrying on the trade of distributor and occupying premises in this borough have registered under the new regulations.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

These regulations apply solely to raw milk (as distinct from heat treated milk) and they provide that licences to producers shall be granted by the Ministry while local authorities will continue to grant licences to dealers. After the 1st October, 1957, the term "Tuberculin Tested" can only be used to describe milk from a herd on the register of attested herds kept by the Ministry. The conditions subject to which the licences are granted are laid down and there are provisions for revocation, suspension and refusals, with right of appeal.

A prescribed test is provided for milk sold under a designation.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

These are made jointly by the Ministers of Health and of Food and are concerned only with special designations of heat treated milk. A new designation " Sterilised " is recognised.

" Pasteurised " milk may be heated to 145 degrees F. to 150 degrees F. for 30 minutes (Holder process) or 161 degrees F. or above for 15 seconds (H.T.S.T. process) before cooling to a temperature of 50 degrees F. " Sterilised " milk must be filtered or clarified, homogenised and heated in a boiler to 212 degrees F. for such a period as will ensure that it will comply with a prescribed test. From a date appointed by the Minister a flow diversion valve must be fitted to H.T.S.T. plants.

Licences for pasteurisers and sterilisers are issued by Food and Drugs authorities and local authorities are responsible for other licences. New methods of taking samples and carrying out tests are specified including a new test for sterilised milk—the turbidity test.

General Notes regarding Designated Milks.

For the time being the use of special designations will remain a voluntary act on the part of the person or council concerned. In due course, when areas have been specified, the position will change as the use of a special designation will be obligatory. Local authorities and Food and Drugs authorities will then have added responsibilities as agents of the central government. The Minister believes that these authorities are alive to the importance of maintaining a high standard and that all possible action will be taken to secure the proper and efficient discharge of responsibilities.

The granting of licences is subject to the applicant satisfying the licensing authority that his arrangements will comply with all relevant provisions and to the general and special conditions. Provision is made for the operation of heat treatment plants by the local authority.

Procedure for appeals against refusals, suspensions, etc. is laid down and hearing of appeals will be in public. A breach of a condition by a retailer in a specified area may lead to prosecution.

The regulations give the authority, with the Minister's approval, discretionary powers to approve any other time and temperature for heat treated milk which will enable the authority to keep in step with new methods. The minimum temperature under the H.T.S.T. process has been reduced by 1 degree F. Under proper conditions, there is, on present evidence, no risk to health, but the change will result in a better " cream line " and will help to popularise pasteurised milk among consumers.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

114 samples of food and drugs were purchased and analysed by the Public Analyst. 55 were formal samples of milk 44 informal samples of food, 14 of ice-cream and 1 drug.

Food

Type	Genuine	Faulty
Apple-cham drink	1	
Apple juice	1	
Cinnamon (ground)	1	
Coffee	1	
Custard powder	4	
Doughnuts	1	
Fat (sweetened cooking)	1	
Flour (Soya)	1	
Fruit dessert	1	
Gelatine (unsweetened dessert)	1	
Glucose	1	
Gravy browning		1
(The colouring matter in this gravy browning had separated from solution and yeast was present. This was due to the age of the stock; the manufacturers were advised and all stocks withdrawn.)		
Gravy powder	1	
Haslet	1	
Jam	3	
Jam (apple and redcurrant)	1	
Meat paste	2	
Meat potted		1
(Contained 5.7 per cent. excess moisture and 5 per cent. of starch Potted meat should be free from starch and should contain no more than 70 per cent. moisture. The local manufacturer was interviewed and advised to improve the quality of his product.)		
Milk (Condensed full cream sweetened)	1	
Oatmeal	2	
Oats (breakfast)	1	
Oil (cooking)	1	
Oil (Olive)	1	
Pastry mix	1	

Pepper (white)	1	
Raising powder	1	
Rice	1	
Sausage Beef	3	1
(One sample of sausage was deficient 6 per cent. of minimum percentage of meat, having 47 per cent. meat content. The manufacturer (not local) was notified and a later repeat sample was genuine.)		
Sausage meat	1	
Sausage pork	1	
Sausage tomato		1
(The sample had a meat content of 28.5 per cent. and the sale was therefore a contravention of the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Control and Minimum Prices) Order 1948. Referred to the Food Enforcement Officer.)		
Tonic Water	1	
Vinegar	2	
	40	4

Drugs

Peppermints		1
(Complaints were received about ill effects to children after consumption of these point free "sweets" purchased from a confectioner. They were found to be digestive peppermints which if eaten excessively would give rise to digestive disturbance. The vendor was cautioned and advised in his own interests to supply the printed label with each sale.)		

Milk

Pasteurised genuine	16
Raw farm genuine	14
Tuberculin Tested genuine	14
Tuberculin Tested (Past.) genuine ...	5
Accredited genuine	2
Sterilised genuine	1
Tuberculin Tested genuine but low in solids-not-fat	1

Accredited genuine but slightly low in solids-not-fat	1	
Tuberculin Tested 20 per cent. deficient in fat ... ... (The vendor was cautioned and repeat samples were genuine)		1
	54	1

The number of milk samples examined shows a decrease over last year (77) The decrease was caused by the number of samples taken at the time of delivery last year at the request of the vendor (25).

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Ice-Cream

14 informal purchases of ice-cream (10 from local manufacturers and 4 "imported") were entirely free from preservatives and poisonous metals. All contained sugar but varied in their contents of gelatine and starch.

Fat content varied from 2.6 to 13.5 and solids from 21.1 to 38 per cent.

The average fat content was 7.4 and solids 31.1 per cent.

Local manufacturers averaged 6.19 and 29.8 per cent.

"Imported" manufacturers averaged 10.6 and 34.7 per cent.

In April, the Minister of Food advised local authorities that additional sugar and fats had been made available to manufacturers provided an undertaking was given to maintain a minimum fat content of 2½ per cent. Local authorities were asked to co-operate with the Ministry by furnishing copies of all analyses of ice-cream sampled. The figure of 2½ per cent. could not be interpreted as a proper standard and the possibility of a legal standard was being considered by the Food Standards Committee.

In December, the Ministry reported that, whilst such a standard was desirable, its observance should be postponed for the time being owing to the present shortage of necessary ingredients.

ICE-CREAM

Bacteriological examinations.

90 samples were examined as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test (with provisional gradings):—

Grade 1	36
Grade 2	18
Grade 3	17
Grade 4	19

Bacillus Coli in 0.1 cc :—

Absent	88
Present	2

TYPE	% GRADED 1 or 2
Bulk	63.6
Pre-packed Bricks	50.0
Pre-packed Cartons	46.1
Pre-packed Slices	42.8
Cold Mix-bulk	50.0

Comparative figures:

Year	Grade 1 or 2 %	B. Coli Absent in 0.1 c.c. %
1946	—	28.0
1947	40.8	64.8
1948	50.7	90.4
1949	60.0	97.8

The number of samples in grade 4 this year remain within 1 per cent. of the figures for last year but do not show an increase.

Composition

14 samples were analysed by the Public Analyst. All were genuine, free from poisonous metal and preservatives but varied in their starch and sugar contents.

(See also notes to Food and Drugs.)

Sample No.	Fat %	Total Solids %
1	5.4	21.1
2	6.3	30.2
9	3.2	27.8
10	3.9	26.7
16	13.5	38.0
17	6.0	27.4
80	5.6	27.7
81	6.8	35.0
82	8.6	35.4
83	2.6	28.3
104	11.2	35.2
105	10.3	34.9
106	10.3	33.8
107	10.7	34.7
Average	7.4	31.1

The series of results of bacteriological examinations since 1946 shews a continuous improvement in the standards achieved and reflects both the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and the efforts of manufacturers to improve their product. Co-operation between the manufacturers and inspectors has been free and without friction.

While the estimation of B.Coli present in samples is not itself a reliable guide to the bacteriological cleanliness of ice-cream, and can indeed be very misleading, yet the steady reduction over 4 years of the percentage of samples containing B.Coli in 0.1 c.c., a reduction from 72 per cent. of samples so contaminated in 1946 to 2.2 per cent. in 1949, is certainly indicative of enormously improved conditions.

The figures given by the Methylene Blue test have also improved each year since it was first used in 1947. When it is remembered that during 1947, 1948 and part of 1949 it was quite impossible to obtain all the heat-treatment and cooling equipment, or to carry out all the alterations to premises, that the Health Department had demanded these results are not unsatisfactory. By the end of the year all manufacturers had obtained and installed the required equipment and it is expected that the improvement in the figures will be continued in 1950.

The figures for fat content have also improved in recent years. There is as yet no legal standard for fat content, but it is fairly safe, I think, to say that almost all the samples analysed shewed a fat content that is higher than any figure likely to be fixed by the Ministry of Food under present circumstances.

Visits

Dealers premises	225
Manufacturers premises	142
Storage premises	6
Proposed premises	19
Cinemas	2
Street Traders	7
Sampling	50
Informal notices	17

Registered Premises

Manufacture store and sale	4
Manufacture and storage	5
Manufacture and sale	10
Manufacture	3
Storage and sale	2
Storage	4
Sale	63
Sale of pre-packed (By agreement)	50
	141

(An increase of 25 over last year, manufacturers increasing by 2)

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Meat

Number of visits to slaughter houses		695
Animals inspected:		
Cattle (excluding cows)	1422	
Cows	726	
Calves	1187	
Sheep and lambs	8153	
Pigs	6	
	11,494	

Other Food

Number of visits to shops	84
Number of visits to animal food shops	2
Number of miscellaneous visits	3

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1,434	726	1,187	8,153	?
Number inspected	1,434	726	1,187	8,153	6
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	6		8	11	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,682		3	1,204	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	75.69		0.93	13.61	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	9		—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	336		—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.26		—	—	—

Meat condemned :

Cattle :

Tuberculosis :

Carcase and organs	9
Forequarter	6
Heads and tongues	197
Lungs (prs.)	330
Spleens	102
Skirts	78
Livers	36
Stomachs	43
Hearts	91
Tails	7
Udder (lbs.)	297
Fat (lbs.)	327

Other diseases :

Carcase and organs (Severe bruising)	4
„ „ „ (Oedema)	1
„ „ „ (Abscesses)	1
Forequarter (Bruising)	2
Livers (Cirrhosis)	1218
„ (part) (Cirrhosis)	440
Kidneys (pair) Abscesses	1
Udder (lbs) (Abscesses)	302
Tongues (Abscesses)	2
„ (Actinomycosis)	3
Intestines (sets) (Oesophagostomum Radiatum)	104
Heart (Putrefaction)	1
Head (Putrefaction)	4
Tails (Putrefaction)	3
Heads and tongues (Cysticercus bovis)	6
Heads (Cysticercus bovis)	9
Hearts (Cysticercus bovis)	2
Beef (lbs) (Bone taint)	778
„ (lbs) (Bruised)	2328
„ (Contaminated)	72
Feet (Bruised)	36

Cysticercus Bovis :

75 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered, classified at the laboratory as 59 live cysts and 16 degenerated cysts.

The distribution amongst the carcases comprised :

Bulls	2
Heifers	23
Bullocks	25
Cows	14
Others	11

The carcases had been collected from the following centres :—

Scotland	4
N. Ireland	31
Manchester	2
Kirkby Stephen	3
Penrith	6
Lazenby	1
Lancaster	1
Kendal	10
Broughton	2
Carnforth	1
Ulverston	2
Sedbergh	1
Not known	11

Calves :

Carcase and organs (Joint ill)	3
,, ,, ,, (Inflammation)	1
,, ,, ,, (Immature)	1
,, ,, ,, (Pneumonia)	2
,, ,, ,, (Abscesses)	1
Livers (Abscesses)	3

Sheep :

Carcase and organs (Inflammation)	2
,, ,, ,, (Abscesses)	4
,, ,, ,, (Moribund)	1
,, ,, ,, (Emaciation)	1
,, ,, ,, (Peritonitis)	1
,, ,, ,, (Pneumonia)	1
,, ,, ,, (Malnutrition)	1
Forequarter of Lamb (lbs) (Abscesses)	10
Livers (Flukes)	1204
Heads and plucks (Flukes)	7
Pluck (Flukes)	1
Pluck (Abscesses)	1
Intestines (sets) (Oesophagostomum Radiation)	76
Feet (Decomposition)	230
Mutton (lbs) (Bruising)	34

Unsound meat (other than carcase meat) surrendered :

Meat :

Beef (frozen)	lbs	149
Sausage casings	,,	224
Sausage	,,	91
Pig's maws	,,	140
Sausage meat	,,	6
Bacon	,,	56½
Pork American	,,	2
Ox tongue	,,	6
Luncheon meat	,,	16
Veal loaf	,,	10½
M & V ration	,,	3
Meat (tinned)	,,	174
Poultry dressed	,,	194
Chickens	,,	64
Rabbits	cases	6
Meat	tins	96
Pork	,,	4
Pork brawn	,,	5
M & V ration	,,	2

Fish :

Cod	stone	25
Cod roe	,,	2
Haddock	,,	12
Finnan haddock	,,	5
Hake	,,	16
Megrims	,,	3
Fish	boxes	3
Pilchards	tins	8
Snoek	tin	1
Sild	,,	1
Salmon	,,	1

Shellfish :

Mussels (frozen)	lbs	27
Crabs	,,	186
Shrimps (picked)	qts	25
,, (rough)	,,	15
Crabs	,,	72
Oysters	,,	60
Crab paste	tins	2
Crawfish	,,	15

Confectioners supplies :

Sweetcake	lbs	5
Flour	„	164
Gelatine	„	22
Forcemeat	„	40
Jelly	„	56
Praline paste	„	14
Nut paste	„	28
Oatcakes	pkts	4
Pudding mix	„	40
Pastry mix	„	69
Potato cakes		300
Crumpets		208
Pikelets		12
Puddings		426
Sponge sandwiches		96

Fruit :

Sultanas	lbs	28
Currants	„	40
Dates	„	51
Prunes	„	61
Grapefruit marmalade	tins	2
Apples	„	6
Grapefruit juice	„	4
Orange juice	„	4
Cherries	tin	1
Grapes	„	1
Peach jam	„	1
Jam	tins	8
Plums	tin	1
Pears	„	1
Peaches	„	1
Fruit	tins	38
Marmalade	tin	1
Rhubarb	„	1
Damson jam	jars	3
Strawberry jam	„	2
Lemon jam	„	6
Jam	„	30
Dates	box	1

Vegetables :

Beans	tins	5
Spaghetti	tin	1
Peas	tins	15
Soup	„	2
Carrots	„	8
Pickles	jars	14
Vegetables	„	82
Onions	jar	1

Cereals :

Oats	lbs	12

Other food :

Tea	lbs	2¼
Peanut butter	„	3
Cheese	„	38
Liquorice all sorts	„	44
Mixed pastilles	„	7
Soup	tins	27
Barlova	tin	1
Treacle	„	1
Pate fois	„	1
Condensed milk	tins	211
Evaporated milk	„	6
Skimmed milk	tin	1
Rice pudding	galls	55
Salad cream	jars	50

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Inspection of Food Premises (excluding ice-cream) :

	Visits
Bakehouses	342
Restaurant kitchens	416
Food Preparation Premises	136
Fish Friers	37
Food Stores	66
	997

38 informal and 1 statutory notices were served requiring attention to the following contraventions and defects :—

	Premises
Structural defects	30
Drainage defects	26
Defective tables and benches	13
Defective floors, walls and ceilings...	29
Want of cleanliness	12
Want of redecoration	24
Accommodation for refuse	10
Inadequate water closet accommod'n	16
Inadequate washing facilities	18
Inadequate ventilation	19
Inadequate artificial light	7
Inadequate hot water supply	23
Smoke nuisance	1
	228

Informal and verbal notices complied with :

Bakehouses	10
Restaurant kitchens	13
Food Preparation Premises...	6
Fish Friers...	2
Food Stores	3
	34

Registration of Premises :

	Register (1.1.49)	Transfers 1949	New 1949	Register (31.12.49)
Fish Friers	29	1		29
Sausages, Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Food Manufacturers	38		5	43

The control of building materials, the licensing of building work and the application of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, still necessitate the preparation of plans, service of notices and specifications of work required to be carried out at each food premises thus limiting, to a considerable degree, the number of inspections that can be made. Nevertheless, considerable progress has been made during the year and it is gratifying to report that the whole of the work has been carried out without recourse to statutory action and with the utmost co-operation of the trades concerned and the local building contractors.

Structural alterations and reconstruction under plans approved have been completed at the following premises:—

Bakehouses	10
Restaurant Kitchens	13
Food Preparation Premises	5
Fish Friers	2
Food Stores	2
	32

LABELLING OF FOOD ORDER, 1946

Visits 17

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (Rivers Board And General Powers) ACT, 1938.

No. of Hawker's licences operating	37
No. of Hawker's premises licences	10
No. of visits	3

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The outstanding occurrence in 1949 was an outbreak of acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis. There were 32 cases notified and of these 6 died. The first case was notified on September 6th and the last on November 14th.

Apart from one small group, it was not possible to find any circumstances that could be held to link these cases together.

This one small group was formed by a party of 18 Boy Scouts and their Scoutmaster who went camping in Yorkshire from the 25th till the 29th of August. When the boys left Morecambe we had had no notified case of poliomyelitis in the borough since 1947. There had been no recent case of poliomyelitis in the district in which they went to camp.

The Scoutmaster had his own tent and the 18 boys shared 4 tents. There was no overcrowding in the tents, the distribution being the following :

two " 9 men tents " with 5 boys in each,
one " 6 men tent " with 5 boys,
one " 4 men tent " with 3 boys.

The camp was visited for one day by 3 younger boys. The boys did their own cooking, most of them taking part in it in turn.

Although the boys did not undertake any unusually vigorous tasks the weather was fine and they had an active holiday, spending the time fell-walking and bathing in a river. The farmer on whose land the boys camped said that the Scoutmaster was the most active of the party.

A week after the boys returned home (on September 5th) one of the them was removed to hospital with poliomyelitis. He had been tired on the day of his return and on the following two days, and in the early morning hours of September 1st. had a headache and " held his head stiffly."

In the expectation that this group of 19 persons might provide a favourable field for the spread of the disease, a list of their names and addresses was sent to each doctor practising in the district. In the event there were 2 more notified cases from the group, a boy who fell ill 10 days after returning home and who had a mild (non-paralytic) attack, and the Scoutmaster who also fell ill on that day and died the following day.

There were thus 3 notified cases among the 19 persons in this holiday group and it seems probable that the first case contracted the infection before going to the camp and the other two at the camp. All three of the cases occupied separate tents and there had apparently been no particularly close association between them during the day time.

So far as these notified cases were concerned it seemed that, while their attendance at the camp not improbably accounted for the infection of 2 of them, the risk of infection was not necessarily greatest where contact was closest.

As is usual, however, the picture is blurred by other, more doubtful, additions. Visits paid to each of the 18 Scouts (and the 3 younger children who had had one day at the camp) disclosed that 2 of the Scouts had had a transient illness within 3 days of their return home: one had vomited several times and had slight pains in his ankles and the other had a headache accompanied by nausea, though he did not vomit. Both these boys were well again in a couple of days and had no further illness. Both of them shared a tent with one of the notified cases—not the original case, but the boy with the non-paralytic attack. If, as is not unlikely, these two illnesses were poliomyelitis, then the number of cases in the group was high —5 out of 19—and 3 of the 5 slept in one tent. Again, if the first case is considered to have been the source of infection, then one notes that none of the subsequent cases shared his tent.

The only connection clearly established between the cases referable to the camp and the 29 other cases notified in the borough during the year was an indirect one. A boy who fell ill on September 8th lived with his uncle, who was associated at work with the Scoutmaster who died: the uncle had no illness.

Two of the later cases were contacts at work: they worked at the same bench in a factory and one fell ill 5-6 days after the other. The first of these two cases had been at the Scout camp, but as he did not fall ill until over a month later, and by that time there were at least a dozen other cases notified, his infection was not ascribed to the camp.

There was no case of diphtheria during the year: there has not been a case in the borough since 1946.

The main infectious diseases, in addition to poliomyelitis were measles (278 cases) and whooping cough (109 cases).

The deaths from infectious diseases were 6 from poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis, 2 from acute pneumonia and 1 from measles.

Visits and Disinfection :

Visits of enquiry into notified cases	135
Re-visits	65
Miscellaneous visits	12
Visits re disinfection	260
Premises disinfected	134
Articles disinfected	1731
Rooms disinfected	195
Number of times steam disinfector used	189
Ships disinfected	3
Ambulances disinfected	1
Schools disinfected	1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (other than TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	AGE PERIODS — YEARS.										Total Cases	Total Deaths	Cases moved to hospital	Deaths in hospital
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age un-k'wn				
Smallpox														
Scarlet Fever		6	20	39	7	1	1				74		70	
Diptheria (including membraneous croup).														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)														
Paratyphoid Fever														
Measles (excluding rubella)	7	72	77	116	4	1	1				278	1	5	
Whooping Cough	9	31	31	32	1	3	2				109		1	
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	1		1	1			8	10	4		25	2	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia						2					2		2	
Cerebro-spinal Fever														
Acute Poliomyelitis		1		7	8	7	5				28	4	28	2
Acute Polio-encephalitis			1	1	1		1				4	2	4	2
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica														
Dysentery							1				1		1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum														
Erysipelas					2		3	4	6		15		11	
Malaria (contracted in England and Wales, or Abroad)														
Food Poisoning						1	5				6		6	
Any other disease														
TOTALS	17	110	130	196	23	15	27	14	10		542	9	132	4

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised by the Medical Officer of Health is given in the table that follows. As has been previously pointed out, these figures are no indication of the total number of children in the borough who have been immunised; many parents have their children immunised by their own private practitioner and of this number we have no accurate records for 1949.

Children up to the age of 7 years are given A.P.T.; for children over that age T.A.F. is used.

The parents of all children immunised by the Medical Officer of Health are reminded at intervals of 4-5 years, of the desirability of renewing the protection given.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of chidren who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year.

AGE AT DATE OF FINAL INJECTION.								
0 –	1 –	2 –	3 –	4 –	Total under 5 years	5	10 –	Total aged 5—14 years
96	86	13	5	7	207	26	3	29

Number of children who were given a reinforcement injection.
(i.e. subsequent to complete course).

AGE GROUP.			
0 –	5 –	10 –	Total 0 - 14 years inclusive
70	122	22	214

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1949

AGE PERIODS Years.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1 –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5 –	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	–
10 –	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
15 –	1	2	–	–	1	–	–	–
20 –	1	2	–	–	-	1	–	–
25 –	2	4	1	1	2	–	–	–
35 –	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
45 –	6	2	–	–	5	–	–	–
55 –	3	1	–	–	3	–	–	–
65 –	2	–	–	–	4	–	–	–
75 and upwards	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	17	14	3	4	16	1	–	–
	31		7		17		–	

ELEVEN YEARS' TABLES OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary Tuberculosis :

Year.	Cases Notified.		Deaths	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1939	7	16	9	5
1940	17	15	6	4
1941	27	19	13	3
1942	20	7	12	3
1943	25	10	12	1
1944	24	15	10	6
1945	19	13	8	5
1946	26	16	6	4
1947	24	12	15	7
1948	31	10	16	6
1949	17	14	16	1
Totals	237	147	123	45

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—

Year.	Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1939	7	3	1	–
1940	6	3	1	1
1941	6	4	1	–
1942	5	8	–	3
1943	4	6	3	2
1944	7	6	4	2
1945	7	6	1	2
1946	6	4	2	2
1947	9	8	3	4
1948	5	8	–	–
1949	3	4	–	–
Totals	66	59	16	16

As compared with 1948 the figures for new cases of tuberculosis, and of death, shew an improvement. Notifications of respiratory disease declined from 41 to 31, of non-respiratory disease from 13 to 7, and of deaths from 22 to 17.

All the deaths in 1949 were due to respiratory forms of the disease.

The figures for new cases of all forms of tuberculosis were the lowest since 1939.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment of patients suffering from venereal disease is given at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

The figures in the following table were kindly supplied by Dr. A. Fessler.

	Non-Venereal Conditions	Gonorrhœa	Syphilis	Total Cases
Males	16	6	4	26
Females	3	1	5	9
Totals	19	7	9	35

Dr. Fessler sends me the following comment :

"There is a very marked decrease in the number of patients with a fresh venereal infection. The large number of non-venereal conditions is mainly due to persons with a V.D. Phobia (consequent of V.D. propaganda)."

This comment has more meaning in the light of the total figures of attendances at the Lancaster Infirmary clinic. The total figures shew an attendance of 51 persons with venereal infection and of 97 with non-venereal conditions.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

The general administrative arrangements were unchanged and the usual work was satisfactorily carried out.

There were 179 vessels from foreign ports of which 153 were oil tankers, boarded and inspected.

There were no cases of infectious disease landed from any vessel.

Number of visits to Heysham	164
Number of beasts examined	12
Number of sheep examined	7

1. Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during 1949.

TABLE A.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector		
FOREIGN :						
Steamers	140	588,588	–	130	–	–
*Motor	39	166,356	–	23	–	–
Sailing	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fishing	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL—Foreign	179	754,944	–	153	–	–
COASTWISE :						
Steamers	1249	993,320	–	–	–	–
*Motor	253	184,430	–	–	–	–
Sailing	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fishing	–		–	–	–	–
Total	1502	1,177,750	–	–	–	–
TOTAL—Foreign and Coastwise	1681	1,232,694	–	153	–	–

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

2. Character of Trade of Port.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger Traffic During 1949

No. of Passengers ...	Saloon	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	80,638	130,832	—
Outwards	79,173	127,464	—

204,613 passengers were carried outwards in 1948 and 206,637 in 1949, an increase of 2,024. Inward traffic showed a similar increase, 204,168 in 1948 and 211,740 in 1949, an increase of 7,302.

There is no passenger traffic with foreign ports.

(b) Cargo Traffic During 1949

Principal Imports :

Live cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, donkeys, asses and goats from Northern Ireland, also food and machinery. Imports in 1949 were : 1 ambulance, 28 asses, 1 bear, 35 tons bullion, 16,361 cattle, 651 cars, 5 caravans, 1 caravan and trailer, 1 chassis, 337 containers, 6 corpses, 28 donkeys, 878 dogs, 1 fire engine, 43 and 10 cwt. geese, 11 goats, 3,191 horses, 2,000 gallons milk, 11 motor bicycles, 7 pigs, 2 ponies, 2 sea lions, 21,197 sheep, 7 tigers and 11 vans.

Principal Exports :

Agricultural machinery and general merchandise. In addition : 7 ambulances, 1 bull, 47 boxes bullion, 828 cars, 2 double decker buses, 1 caravan, 248 containers, 72 cattle, 66 chassis, 47 corpses, 1 donkey, 10 deer, 631 dogs, 1 fire engine, 83 horses, 2 lions, 7 lorries, 3 locomotives, 20 motor bicycles, 27 pigs, 2 railway coaches, 104 sheep, 12 tractors, 26 vans, 1 van and trailer, 1 10½ ton shaft and 1 zebra left the port for Northern Ireland.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Nil return—not a port approved for the landing of aliens.

3. Water Supply

Water is obtained from the town supply for the port and for shipping. No water vessels are employed; vessels taking in water from stand-pipes alongside.

4. Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declaration of Health.
   This is usually received by the Customs Officer and handed later to the Sanitary Authority.
2. Boarding of vessels on arrival.
   By Customs Officer and by Sanitary Inspector.
3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention.
   Customs Officer notifies Medical Officer of Health and Health Department, by telephone.
4. Mooring stations designated under Article 10.
   (a) Inner Mooring—for cases of smallpox and typhus (Easterly end of North Side).
   (b) Outer Mooring—for cases of cholera, yellow fever and plague (at Lune Deeps).
5. Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.
   All ordinary notifiable infectious diseases other than those specified under 4 above.
6. Experience of working Article 16.
   No experience.
7. Arrangements for :—
   (a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.
   No special premises have been provided. There is no foreign passenger traffic. Members of the crew would be examined on board.
   (b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.
   A steam disinfector is provided for bedding and clothing. Appliances and materials are available for the disinfecting of ships and this would be carried out by the Health Department staff.
   (c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons. No special premises.
   (d) Hospital accommodation.
   An infectious disease hospital at Lancaster is available for all cases except smallpox. For smallpox cases the Regional Hospital Board will make arrangements.
   (e) Ambulance transport.
   A special motor ambulance is available with attendants.
   (f) Supervision of contacts.
   Contacts requiring to be kept under surveillance would be kept on board or accommodated at hospital.

8. Arrangements for bacteriological or pathological examination of rats and other materials.
Submitted to pathologists ordinarily employed by the Public Health Authority. Uusually the Pathologist attached to the Royal Infirmary, Lancaster.

10. Venereal diseases.
No special arrangement for sailors. There is a clinic at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

11. Arrangements for interment of dead.
In cemeteries provided by the Sanitary Authority.

TABLE C.

Six members of the crew of an oil tanker wich put into Heysham Harbour in May were suffering from an infection with S. Typhi Murium. They were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

TABLE D.

Cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival ... ... Nil

5. Measures Against Rodents.

No special measures have been necessary, the port being remarkably free from rats. Practically all traffic except for oil was from Northern Ireland, and the cargo is only on board a few hours and is transported direct by rail. The Harbour Authority employ their own rat-catcher.

TABLES E and F.

Rats destroyed on vessels and in docks ... ... Nil

TABLES G and H.

Deratisation and exemption certificates issued ... ... Nil

6. Hygiene of Crews Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of nuisances

Number inspected during the year 74
Defects ... ... Nil

Food Inspection.

Periodical visits are made for the purpose of the Imported Food Regulations. Visits are also made for the purpose of examining carcases of animals slaughtered on board or after detention on landing.

In connection with the operation of the regulations my thanks are due to the inspectors of H.M. Customs for their courtesy and ready assistance at all times.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	52	17	—	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	182	468	28	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	—	—
TOTAL	237	486	28	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	6	5	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	14	16	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	4	8	—	6
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	13	—	12
(c) Not separate for sexes...	—	2	—	3
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	27	—	22

No. of outworkers making wearing apparel 2

SHOPS ACTS.

Shop Acts, 1912-36 :

Number of visits to shops	306
„ „ revisits	9
„ „ informal visits	103

Shops Act, 1934 :

Exemption certificates :

Number in force for washing facilities	19
Number in force for sanitary conveniences ...	71

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938 :

Number of visits	17
Number of theatres visited	10

PUBLIC CLEANSING

On March 1st Mr. Tyson, succeeding Mr. Morgans, took over the post of Cleansing Superintendent and he has kindly supplied the following account of the work of his department during the year.

Labour :

There was little improvement in the supply of labour and recruitment of casual labour for seasonal work was poor, particularly with regard to street cleansing and staffing of public conveniences. The foreshore was cleansed by full time workers and, in order that the bulk of the material could be removed before the crowds gathered, they were assisted in the early morning by refuse collectors who put in 1½ hours work before commencing their normal duties. This work was, of course, at overtime rates thus increasing the cost, but as other labour was not available, there was no alternative.

The shortage of labour for manning public lavatories caused some difficulties, especially during the illuminations period, the womens' sections being the more seriously affected.

During the year 1306 man-days were lost through sickness and absence, this being equivalent to 4.95 per cent. of the total possible. The rates rose steadily from a minimum of 2.4 per cent. in July to 8.2 per cent. in December.

Refuse Collection and Disposal :

During July a census was made of all refuse receptacles in the borough. A summary of the results is shewn below and it is obvious that such a miscellaneous assortment of containers can have a serious effect on the efficiency of the refuse collection service. Time is lost through cleaning up spillages and carrying out bulky and irregularly shaped receptacles and the danger of injury to workmen when handling these is always present.

Of the 13,477 bins required in the borough only 10,992 were in a good state of repair, this being 81.64 per cent. of the total. Of the 11,338 premises served only 9,315 or 82 per cent. were adequately provided with dustbins.

Summary of Dusbin Census :

10,992	good bins
1,154	bad bins
565	dolly tubs
267	boxes
131	oil drums
98	buckets
73	barrels
61	tea chests
41	tin baths
36	baskets
13	flour bins
13	boilers
6	wash basins.

It should be made clear that not all the premises in which the substitute receptacles were found were without dust bins. Very many of those premises had standard bins and for something like 9 months of the year these bins were adequate. It is during the 3 months at the height of the season that the additional receptacles appear and the number of them and the premises at which they are used vary with the number of visitors. This fact introduces a complication in the application of the 1936 Public Health Act that inland towns do not have to deal with.

House and Trade Refuse Collection Weights :

	T.	C.	Q.
House and trade refuse	12736	3	1
Fish and other offal	296	9	2
Raw kitchen waste	89	—	3
	13121	13	2

Refuse Disposal :

	T.	C.	Q.
At Controlled Tip	12356	12	1
At Trade waste plant	385	10	1
At Salvage works	379	11	—
	13121	13	2

Trade Waste Plant Sales :

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Fish Manure	44	9	2	7 ...	1184	0	11
Shrimp Manure	8	14	—	14 ...	174	4	3
Concentrated kitchen waste	57	16	—	— ...	317	13	11
Bones	3	4	2	— ...	16	17	9
Oyster Shell	17	12	—	— ...	26	12	6
Miscellaneous		1	2	— ...		7	0
	131	17	2	21	1719	16	4

Salvage Sales :

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	312	2	2	— ...	1954	12	2
Mixed Rags	4	1	2	— ...	76	1	0
Other Textiles	2	9	3	— ...	9	11	3
Non-ferrous Metals ...		12	2	14 ...	31	0	6
Black Scrap	8	15	1	— ...	12	4	9
Miscellaneous		13	—	10 ...	4	18	0
	328	14	2	24	2088	7	8

Street Cleansing :

The work was retarded, during the summer, by indifferent operation of the Karrier Mechanical Sweeper. This vehicle was 17 years old and breakdowns were frequent; the cost of maintenance and renewals was becoming out of proportion to the work done by the machine and early in October it was decided to take it off the road to be scrapped. Delivery was made, in December, of a Lewin Sprinkler Sweeper Collector.

The Dennis gully emptying vehicle was also in a very dilapidated condition and was over 16 years old; the work of gully cleansing was eased greatly, therefore, by the delivery in September of a new 800 gallon Dennis machine with cesspool emptying attachment.

Public Conveniences :

During the illuminations the conveniences at Happy Mount Park were completely inadequate to serve the huge crowds which were admitted nightly to the Park and additional portable accommodation was erected by the Borough Surveyor's Department. These, although being far from ideal, helped somewhat to relieve the congestion.

Building was commenced on new conveniences at Regent Park during the latter part of the year.

Receipts over the 12 months amounted to £5,792, an all time record, as against £4,635 in 1948.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

981 children were medically examined in the schools at routine inspections, 359 shortly after their entry into school, 334 at the mid-period of their school life and 298 at a later age. At these inspections we had the attendance of 607 parents, an encouraging figure which indicates the parental interest in these examinations.

In general the children were found to be well cared for and healthy and the standard of cleanliness was high.

In addition to the children seen in the schools there were 4,150 attendances of children at minor ailment clinics, 167 seen at the opthalmic clinics and 65 treated as a result of attendances at the ear, nose and throat clinic.

The provision of spectacles for school children was improved during the latter part of 1949 and the long waiting periods reduced. The main defect of the scheme as conducted under the National Health Service Act is that official interest in each case ceases once a prescription for spectacles has been issued : under the previous scheme each child was supplied with his spectacles through the clinic, so that it was possible to make sure that the spectacles were obtained and possible, also, to confirm that they were satisfactory.

Children requiring hospital treatment for ear, nose and throat conditions have been unfortunate since July, 1948. It is true that the outbreak of poliomyelitis in the second half of last year caused a suspension of such treatment, but, apart altogether from this, the hospital service has been unable to provide the treatment required. This is a serious failure : these untreated conditions are responsible for chronic ill-health, for educational backwardness, for impaired hearing and for the loss of good looks. It is hoped that 1950 will see a great improvement in the hospital service for these children.

In the following tables are shewn the main defects found amongst school children during the year.

Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the Year in Schools and in School Clinics

No. of Pupils examined		Periodic Inspections 981		Special Inspections 1147	
		Number of Defects		Number of Defects	
Disease or Defect		Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment
Skin		2	—	102	—
Eyes	Vision	39	—	36	—
	Squint	2	1	3	—
	Other	—	—	55	—
Ears	Hearing	2	—	3	—
	Otitis Media	—	—	6	—
	Other	1	—	55	—
Nose or Throat		46	1	61	—
Speech		—	—	—	—
Cervical Glands		1	—	6	—
Heart and Circulation		—	—	—	—
Lungs		1	8	1	1
Developmental	Hernia	2	—	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic	Posture	9	—	—	—
	Flat-foot	25	3	1	—
	Other	17	3	2	1
Nervous System	Epilepsy	—	1	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—
Psychological	Development	—	—	—	—
	Stability	—	—	—	—
Other		1	—	708	—
	TOTAL	148	17	1039	2

Defective Vision and Squint

(Excluding Eye Diseases treated as Minor Ailments)

Number of Defects dealt with		Number of Pupils for whom Spectacles were :	
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes	Prescribed	Obtained
167	—	146	N.K.

Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

Number of Defects

Received Operative Treatment.		Received Other Forms of Treatment	Total Number Treated
For Adenoids and Chronic Tonsillitis	For Other Nose and Throat Conditions		
49	4	12	65

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SCHOOL NURSES

Number of visits paid to schools 131

Cleanliness Inspections :—

Number of examinations of children in schools ... 11890

Number of individual pupils found to be infested ... 199

Home Visiting :—

Number of visits paid to homes 154

Number of pupils seen at home visits 108

Number of interviews with parents at home 138

In reading the figures for uncleanliness in the above table it is to be remembered that the 199 individual children found to be unclean were not 199 different children. There are families that offend repeatedly and whose children keep re-appearing among the numbers.

Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the Year in the Periodic Age Groups.

Age-Groups (All Schools)	Number of Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	359	19	5.4	311	86.6	29	8
Second Age Group	324	53	16.3	240	74.1	31	9.6
Third Age Group	298	50	16.7	229	77	19	6.3
TOTAL	981	122	12	780	80	79	8

TREATMENT TABLES

Return of Defects known to have received treatment during the year, either at the Authority's Clinics or eleswhere.

Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness).

(a) **Disease or Defect :**	Number of Defects Treated or under Treatment during the Year.
Skin—	
Ringworm—Scalp	
(i) X-Ray Treatment	—
(ii) Other Treatment	—
Ringworm—Body	—
Scabies	1
Impetigo	11
Other Skin diseases	90
Minor Eye Diseases	55
Minor Ear Defects	61
Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises sores, chilblains, etc.)	708
Total	926

(b) Total number of Attendances at Authority's Minor Ailments Clinics 4150

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

Two part time dentists were employed and 189 sessions were occupied in inspection and treatment.

During the year 1,684 children were examined. Of these, 1,011 were found to require treatment and 889 received treatment within the year. There were 768 extractions, 1,140 fillings and 100 other operations.

Printed by " The Visitor Press "
Victoria Street, Morecambe